

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PLEASE REFER TO THE GENERAL FAQS SECTION OF ARPA-E'S WEBSITE (<https://arpa-e.energy.gov/fags/general-questions>) FOR ANSWERS TO MANY GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT ARPA-E AND ARPA-E'S FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS SPECIFIC TO THIS FOA ONLY ARE INCLUDED BELOW. PLEASE REVIEW ALL EXISTING GENERAL FAQS AND FOA-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS BEFORE SUBMITTING NEW QUESTIONS TO ARPA-E.

I. Full Application Phase Questions:

Q1. Can I speak or meet with the ARPA-E program director or other ARPA-E personnel about this funding opportunity announcement?

ANSWER: No. Upon the issuance of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), ARPA-E Program Directors and other ARPA-E personnel are prohibited from communicating (in writing or otherwise) with Applicants, or potential Applicants regarding the FOA. This "quiet period" remains in effect until ARPA-E's public announcement of its project selections. During the "quiet period," Applicants may submit questions regarding the FOA to ARPA-E-CO@hq.doe.gov with the FOA name and number in the subject line. Applicants may also submit questions regarding ARPA-E's online application portal, ARPA-E eXCHANGE, to ExchangeHelp@hq.doe.gov with the FOA name and number in the subject line. ARPA-E will not accept or respond to communications received by other means (e.g., fax, telephone, mail, hand delivery). E-mails sent to other e-mail addresses will be disregarded.

Q2. Is there a difference between DE-FOA-0001953 SOLICITATION ON TOPICS INFORMING NEW PROGRAM AREAS Topic U and DE-FOA-0001954 SOLICITATION ON TOPICS INFORMING NEW PROGRAM AREAS SBIR/STTR Topic U, other than the latter being through the SBIR? (difference in terms of application content, etc.?)

ANSWER: No

Q3. I am planning to submit a proposal in response to DE-FOA-0001953 Topic U: SF6-Free Routes for Electrical Equipment. I would have a question about the solicitation: If my proposed project consists of a new alternative gas mixture (topic area A) that also requires a new design structure for switchgear (topic area B, but not vacuum-based), should I submit my proposal as a response to area A or area B? I am planning to design, build, and test a prototype circuit breaker based on this new design and new gas mixture.

ANSWER: ARPA-E will not pre-assess an applicant's proposal. Prospective applicants must review the technical requirements of the FOA and independently determine whether their proposed concept warrants a submission.

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Q4. Thanks for forwarding the link to us. We had been in discussion internally with various stake holders to explore how we can participate in the subject initiative. In this regard, we have few questions for which we request your clarification.

- 1. With this program, would the funding be for suppliers /vendors like us or is it for internal department of ARPA-E?**
- 2. If the funding is for the suppliers, what would be the process if our company wants to partner up in developing SF6 free GIE.**
- 3. What would be the scope of partnering? Would it be consultancy only or design and prototype production too.**

With the clarity of above, we will discuss internally and revert with our intention to participate.

ANSWER: 1. Funding is for applicants . See Sections II and III of the FOA for award information and eligibility to receive funding.

2. See Section III Eligibility Information of the FOA

3. ARPA-E will not pre-assess or or provide teaming arrangement guidance to potential applicants. Prospective applicants must review the funding opportunity announcement requirements and independently determine their proposed teaming arrangements

Q5. Thank you for your kind reply in advance. This question is related to DE-FOA-0001953 Topic U: SF6-Free Routes for Electrical Equipment. We would like to know if ARPA-e is only interested, in Area B, for the SF6 replacement technologies applied for > 245kV (Table 1, Item U). Our proposed technology could apply to both >245kV and >170kV and we would like to know this, because of our partner's business scope.

ANSWER: ARPA-E will not pre-assess an applicant's proposal. Prospective applicants must review the technical requirements of the FOA and independently determine whether their proposed concept warrants a submission.